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LETTER DATED 3 OCTOBER 1995 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you and, through you, the Members of the Security Council that I have received a letter dated 14 September 1995 from His Excellency Mr. Seyoum Mesfin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, enclosing a statement submitted by the delegation of Ethiopia to the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on 11 September 1995.

The submission indicates that the concerned authorities of Ethiopia have concluded that the terrorist assault on the motorcade of His Excellency President Hosni Mubarak on 26 June 1995 in Addis Ababa, although the work of members of Al-Gama'a Al-Islamia, was an operation supported, assisted and facilitated by the security organs of the Sudan.

According to the submission, there is "absolutely no possibility for members of the terrorist group to have managed to leave Sudan with the very sophisticated and heavy explosives which were designed to be used in the attempt, and to sneak them into Ethiopia, without the cooperation, assistance and connivance of Sudanese Security Officials. Not only have our authorities discovered weapons in the possession of the terrorists, directly and with no ambiguity traced to Sudanese Security Organs, but there are also strong indications that diplomatic covers were used and also that Ethiopia's demonstrated eagerness to foster friendship among peoples of our subregion was abused".

The Government of Ethiopia informed the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the OAU's Central Organ that it believed itself compelled to present the information it had collected, since the alternative would have been to ignore the involvement in state-sponsored terrorism in its capital by a neighbouring country against an African Head of State who was its guest and was there to participate in an OAU summit. The Government requested that an appropriate response to this violation of the Charters of the United Nations and of the Organization of African Unity, as well as of international law, be taken at multilateral levels, most particularly at the level of the Organization of African Unity.

After a thorough debate, the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the Central Organ of the OAU adopted a statement in which it, inter alia, condemned the assassination attempt, called on the Government of the Sudan to hand over the three alleged perpetrators, who are sheltering in the Sudan, and requested the Secretary-General of the OAU to submit a report to the next meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers on the extradition of the terrorists and on additional measures necessary to deal with the dangers posed by state-sponsored terrorism.

It was agreed at a meeting on 29 September with the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia that it would be appropriate to inform the Security Council of the main points in his letter to me. The Minister also asked that the Council be informed that the Ethiopian Government would defer a decision on further action until it had ascertained what progress could be made at the level of the Organization of African Unity on the basis of the statement adopted by its Central Organ on 11 September 1995.

I should accordingly be grateful if you could bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI